



info•bits

City of Torrance

fall•2012

Centennial Finale *Looking Back, Moving Forward*

Beginning with the kick-off event on November 6, 2011 and ending with the Birthday Bash on October 28, 2012, City employees have been an integral part of every aspect of the centennial events, from planning to facilitation. City Council established the Torrance Centennial Committee in May of 2009 that included current and former Council and School Board members, City Clerk, Chamber of Commerce members, City Staff Liaisons Fran Fulton and Eleanor Barthe-Jones, prominent civic leaders and interested citizens who worked together under the leadership of former TUSD administrator, Dr. Laurie Love, to plan and produce over 100 centennial events.

Over the last year, nearly every department has had a hand in making the city's centennial events successful and memorable. This partnership with the community is the perfect illustration of the achievement of our goals to "Encourage and respond to community participation," and to "Foster community pride and excellence." "It took the Torrance Village that included the business sponsors, residents, volunteers and various City departments to make the Centennial events happen and run flawlessly," said Eleanor Barthe-Jones, Management Associate in the City Manager's Office.

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Centennial Scrap Book: *City employees volunteering and working on the days of the Centennial Parade and Birthday Bash events – not pictured are the many employees who worked behind the scenes to support and facilitate all of the year's events.*



Health & Benefits Fair

This year's Health & Benefits Fair was well attended by city employees intent on getting the latest information on their health care options. Many took advantage of the various health tests and flu shots available. There were games to play and door prizes to win. The Farmer's Market vendors provided Kettle Corn and fresh produce. A number of city departments had information tables for Rideshare, recycling, fire prevention, safety challenge, library services and much more.



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Moments in Torrance History

By Michael George

The celebrations of the city's 100th birthday are winding down. The Birthday Bash included lots to see and do, everything from skydivers and rivalry ball games to a vintage bus and nostalgic newspapers. Mrs. Torrance (an impersonator) even made an appearance. But did you know other city anniversaries were celebrated in high style?

To celebrate the 75th anniversary, ten vintage aircraft were to perform a fly-over of Wilson Park. One of the planes, a 1930 Stearman flown by Lance Aamot, fell out of formation and was forced down in a field south of Torrance Blvd. In that aircraft was none other than Lou Zamperini.

In 1936, our silver anniversary (they counted from 1911), included such events as a public dance, cake baking contest, amateur variety show and a “Mutt Show”. Cake contest winners were awarded \$2.50 to \$10 “in silver” in prizes.

Our 40th anniversary, 1952, was celebrated with a special issue of the Torrance Herald. Many “Then and Now” pictures were featured in the newspaper, such as Andreo Avenue in 1913, the corner of Sepulveda and Western in 1952, and a portrait of “first couple married in the city of Torrance”, Donald Vorhis and Ethelyn Ashley.

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Retirees

Name	Title	Retirement Date	Years of Service
Stephen Waggoner	Fire Fighter	07/28/2012	27 years
Bradley Wilson	Police Captain	07/28/2012	27 years
Linda Sheldon	Environmental Quality Officer	08/14/2012	21 years
Hrand Ibranossian	Air Condition/Heat Supervisor	09/06/2012	25 years
Theodore Lampkin, Jr.	Police Services Officer	09/11/2012	21 years

Promotions

City Treasurer Sr. Account Clerk Jessica Ayala	Police Captain Bernard Anderson	Public Works continued Traffic Painter Jason Sorge
Community Services Lead Maintenance Worker Michael Kona	Lieutenant Mark Underwood	Transit Bus Operator Anesha Lee Freddie Marlowe III Keith Wright
General Services Fleet Services Manager Jasun Botiller	Public Works Maintenance Worker Marco Salgado	

New Hires

City Manager Staff Assistant Domenica Megerdichian	Fire Business Manager Sally Oliver	Police Services Officer Amy Blumfield
Community Development Structural Plans Examiner James Gorbin	General Services Custodian Ryan Wood	Public Works Maintenance Worker Leopoldo Barajas Jr. Richard Carbajal Iraldo Elizundia Jose Franco Lawrence Perez Myron Perry Lawrence Waller
Community Services Maintenance Worker Jesus Arias Jr.	Police Police Officer Lindley Hupp Michelle Lowery	

Healthy Holidays

Avoid heavy holidays. The average American gains seven pounds over the holidays. Trying to lose weight during the holiday season might not be realistic, but set a goal for yourself to maintain your weight, so you can have a healthy start to the new year.

- Enjoy holiday foods in smaller portions. Use lower-fat substitutes in recipes. Increase activity to balance extra calories.
- Start a new holiday tradition. Take time with your family and friends to walk, dance, skate and bike together.
- Bring a healthy dish to share at holiday parties or eat a light snack before you go. Use a small plate and only fill it once.

Laughter Therapy

You know how it feels when you laugh so hard you cry? Whatever tension you had, a good belly laugh washes it away. Because your mind and body are connected, laughing may be one of the best natural medicines around.

What happens when you laugh?

A robust laugh gives the muscles of your face, diaphragm, abdomen, and sometimes your arms and legs, a good workout. Your heart rate and blood pressure rise then fall, you breathe faster and deeper, and oxygen surges through your blood stream. Your brain pumps hormones that make you very alert and endorphins that numb pain.

Laughter:

- raises your pain threshold
- reduces stress and calms you in emotional situations
- enhances immunity by boosting your levels of antibodies

Laughing relaxes your body and clears your mind. If you can see the humor in a stressful situation, you may be able to change your response to the stress by replacing negative thoughts with positive ones. You can't laugh and worry too much at the same time. Humor can be a powerful medicine, and laughter can be contagious.

*These health tips are provided by
Kaiser Permanente.*

We Welcome Sally Oliver

**Business Manager
Fire Administration Division
Torrance Fire Department**

Sally Oliver is delighted to be the city's first Business Manager in the Fire Administration Division of the Torrance Fire Department. Administrative Battalion Chief, Martin Serna supervises the newly created position that is a result of the department's realignment. "This new position within the fire department is an exciting new direction. The selection process was a very difficult one, but with Sally's background and qualifications we knew she was a tremendous find. We are very excited to have Sally on-board as we work to develop this new position for the Fire Department." Oliver currently works out of the Fire Prevention division in City Hall and will eventually have an office at Station 1, Fire Department Headquarters.

Raised in Wilmington, the Banning High graduate applied to the City for a secretarial job right out of school but was advised to get some experience. That she did! Starting with Los Angeles County, Road Department (Public Works today), then to the Museum of Natural History and on to Harbor UCLA Medical Center in Carson as the Administrative Director for Graduate Medical Education. Along the way, Oliver earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administra-

tion and Information Systems as well as a Master of Public Administration, and moved to Torrance where she lives with her husband, Scott, and their dog, Mahina.

"When the Fire Department position came up, I jumped at the opportunity," said Oliver. "I already had great admiration for the department from the experience of seeing how they took care of my father-in-law before he passed away. The department really takes care of the community." The self-avowed computer nerd brought with her an idea for a custom software system for performance evaluations, something the department was still doing on paper. "I used a similar system at the hospital," she said. "I knew the doctor who had sponsored the development and asked him if he could help us develop one for our use. He had his people design one for us and donated it to the Fire Department." The system is being beta tested on a revamped auxiliary program for volunteer firefighters.

Oliver's duties will include administrative aspects of recruitment, management of worker's compensation cases and compliance with health mandates, fire fighter licensing, updating the website and developing a wellness plan for the department. "This is the best thing I could have done with my career," says Oliver.



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Torrance Trivia

Summer 2012 Question: The direct dial prefix for Torrance was "Fairfax". What prefix would you use if you wanted to call your friends in Lomita or Harbor City?

Answer: Davenport

Correct Responders: Jeannie Fuller, Paul Hill, Jay Spradlin, Denise Schwarz, Cheryl Huddle, Lisa Terlazzo – and the winner of the drawing for the prize is: Denise Schwarz!

Contact Myisha Phillips in Human Resources to collect your prize.

New Question:

Torrance enjoys throwing a party. What has been the most popular form of celebrating city events?

- A. Parades
- B. Rodeos
- C. Dances
- D. Dinners
- E. All of the Above

Thanks to Michael George for these trivia questions and answers.

E-mail your answer to JanetStancliff3@gmail.com and put "Torrance Trivia" in the subject line.

What Can We Tell You?

You could win a prize for your input!



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